

# Music

## VIEWS

DECEMBER • 1955



"16 TONS" FORD

*In this issue...* **New Releases from CAPITOL**

# Music Views

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VIC ROWLAND

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## THE COVER

There's a Ford out Hollywood way that was "going like 60" last month—really had everybody spinning, and still is for that matter.

It was Tennessee Ernie Ford, whose smash hit, "16 Tons," was really throwing its weight around from coast to coast, qualifying him more as a Cadillac than a flivver.

In three very fast weeks Ernie's newest platter for Capitol had shifted into ultra-high gear to crash 800,000 in sales. Somewhat of a record. Some record, too. Get it and go for a spin! Jack Fascinato's fascinating music gave Ford a push. Merle Travis wrote it. He's a Capitol recording artist, too.

Ernie is "wreathed" in smiles on our cover this month. There's more of him to see on pages 6 and 7. Take a sneak-peek.



We're with you, Janie Powell of MGM. We all wish our readers a Gay Noel. Janie, your short-bobbed petticoat is showing!!

## ● CASE FOR COLUMBIA

Alan Case, recent winner on the "Arthur Godfrey Talent Scout" show, has been signed to a recording contract with Columbia. Alan also will bow soon in a Broadway musical, "Reuben, Reuben, Reuben."

## ● PUENTE TO VICTOR

RCA Victor has inked Tito Puente and his band, a Latin group, to a new contract. Puente formerly cut for Tico Records, an independent diskery.



Columbia's gleeful Janet Leigh displays plenty of nineteen hundred fifty-six appeal ushering in a Happy New Year to us all.

## ● SINGING POWER

An original musical is being created for Tyrone Power for his NBC color spectacular on "Producer's Showcase" scheduled for next March. Power will sing in his starring role in the production.

## ● MERC. TO COL. FOR VIC

Vic Damone, who for the past three years has been a recording artist on the Mercury label, has signed a new contract with Columbia Records.

## ● NOVEL IDEA

Title tunes for motion pictures have become a pertinent part of worthy film productions and so it is with television productions in many cases.

However a new trend is starting in the music world, that of having a title tune for a novel. Recent case of this is Bob Sylvestor's book, "Dream Street." Willard Robinson created the tune for the book title.

## ALL FOR PROMOTION

Music publisher Sid Mills has discovered it's no cinch to park a Japanese ricksha outside the Brill Building in New York.

As part of the promotion for his Marquee label tune, "The Japanese Farewell Song," Mills sought a license from the city to park the ricksha adjacent to the Brill, only to discover the city dads had only made provision to park autos, trucks, motorcycles, bicycles, and pushcarts on the streets but hadn't given a thought to the oriental transportation vehicle.

Mills didn't discover his dilemma until well after the ricksha had been packed and shipped from Japan.

## Lyricist Who Sold 'Among My Souvenirs' For \$50 Still Writing Songs At Age 71

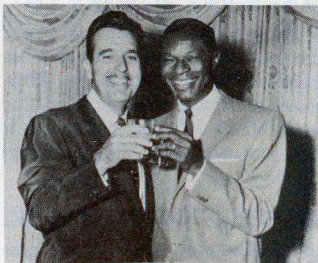
Verse writer Doyle Williams, now 71, has collaborated with Sammy Fain on a new novelty tune titled "The Saw Song," which has been recorded by Art Mooney. But that's only the beginning of the story. Williams, in his early days, wrote verse for \$5, \$7, or \$10 fees. One of his biggest sales had netted him \$35, so when he was offered \$50 from Al Dubin for a verse titled "Among My Souvenirs," he sold it on the double. Dubin expected to put the lyrics to music, but after years had passed he hadn't found time to write the music, he sold it to a song writer named Edgar Leslie for \$150. Leslie took time to put the lyrics to notes and came up with the hit it was destined to be.

Since this time, however, Doyle Williams has come up with other verses that hit, among them "Peggy O'Neil" and "Cabin in the Pines."

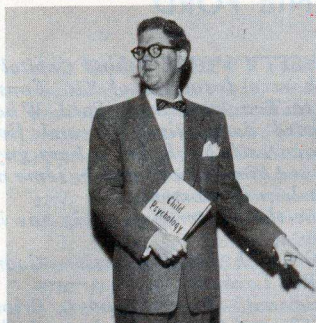
In addition to the verses, one of the titles he is remembered for is "When You Walked Out With Shoes On, I Knew You Were Gone For Good." That's the way Matt Weinstock of the Los Angeles Mirror-News relates the yarn.



Not all admirers of record star Johnny Ray are bobby soxers. For example, here's Barbara Stanwyck at John's opening night at Ciro's.



Melting ice in their ginger ales with their warm personalities at Indianapolis party recently were Cap's Tennessee Ernie, Nat Cole.



These Capitol Records artists have come up this month with some bright new Christmas singles that are guaranteed to delight spinners from the very first grooves. Top left is Stan Freberg, who read the book in his hand before recording "The Night Before Christmas" with little 8 year old Babette Bain. Top right photo shows Gordon MacRae at record date where he waxed "(Here's to) A Wonderful Christmas." Bottom photo shows Capitol's hit makers, Les Paul and Mary Ford, whose Yule biscuit is a novel arrangement of "Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer" which is coupled with "Santa Claus Is Coming to Town." You will enjoy all three disks.

# A PHOTO STORY OF "MR. 16 TONS"

## "TENNESSEE" ERNIE FORD

**T**HE HEFTY VOICE behind Capitol's smash record success of "16 Tons" belongs to Tennessee Ernie Ford. What with record dates, five TV and five radio shows each week, he's a busy guy. Here we see him at work and in some of his more leisure moments.

1. Ernie the hunter bags a big one in Utah.

2. Ernie with his Production Coordinator, Red Loakes.

3. Ernie with his two boys, Brion Leonard, 2, and Jeffrey Buckner, 5, in the family swimming pool.

4. Ernie clowning it up on his NBC-TV show with his manager, Cliffie Stone, who's also a Capitol recording artist.

5. Ernie at a Capitol record session, cutting "16 Tons," in Hollywood.

6. Ernie's NBC-TV cast includes, left to right, musical director Jack Fascinato, singer Doris Drew, who also appears on his CBS Radio show; "Mr. '16 Tons'" himself, singer Molly Bee, announcer-singer Skip Farrell.

7. Ernie at home with the family, wife Betty and sons Jeff and Brion.

8. Ernie with his mother and dad, Mr. and Mrs. T. C. Ford, of Bristol, Tenn.

9. Ernie with the Cheerleaders, who appear regularly on his CBS Radio show. Billy Liebert at piano.

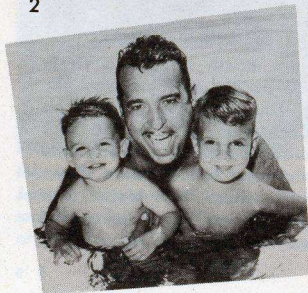
Ernie has bought 500 acres near Clear Lake, Calif., 90 miles north of Sacramento, where he expects to retire some day as a working rancher. On the ranch he has \$13,000 worth of farm machinery and 10 head of Hereford cattle.



1



2



3



4



5



9



8



7



6

## DAVY'S FIDDLE

Now Davy Crockett's fiddle gets into the act!

Davy's own authenticated fiddle, the property of the Witte Memorial Museum in San Antonio, Tex., was used by Western singing star Red River Dave to record his new song, "When Davy Crockett Met the San Antonio Rose." Dave (last name McEnery), who stars on WOAI-TV San Antonio in "Red River Dave's Barn Dance", is nationally known as a composer and recording artist.

He accompanied himself on the Crockett museum piece while recording his new song at the T.N.T. studios in San Antonio, while armed guards detailed to act as custodians stood by.

The song is based on historical fact—the dance held in front of the Alamo prior to the arrival of Gen. Santa Anna's troops.

## ● NEW ONE FOR KIDS

Newly signed to Decca label to record juvenile records is Charity Bailey. She conducts a weekly TV show on a New York station.

## ● WORDS FOR J. G.

Jackie Gleason, Capitol Records' top selling album artist, has penned the music to four CBS-TV shows but has called in a flock of writers to write lyrics to his melodies.

He has written theme music for his "Honeymooners" series, for the Dorsey Brothers "Stage Show," and a recent "Studio One" show in which he was starred, and a special one-time show in which he is to appear on CBS-TV.

Lyric to "Honeymooners" theme was written by Bill Templeton and is titled "You're My Greatest Love." Words to "This Is a Wonderful Night," theme for "Stage Show," were written by Lyn Duddy and Jarry Besler, and Sammy Gallop added the lyrics to the "Studio One" melody, "Good Night, Sweet Nightingale."

Duke Eunston has written the words to "Melancholy Serenade," theme music for the spectacular stanza. Gleason's Songsmiths firm will publish all the songs.

## ● BRANCHING OUT

A coin operated amusement machine operator, the Bally Manufacturing company of Chicago, is branching over into the record business with its first waxing to be released in January on the Bally label.

## ● SKIER ON WAX

Europe's champion skier, Van Hall, glides into the record industry with an album of yodeling songs for the Marquis label. The first release will contain eight songs.

Hall, in addition to being a singer, yodeler, and skier also is an actor. He expects to make the film "White Fury" in the Alps soon. This is a story about his own life during World War II,

which he and Dr. Edward E. Ronk purchased from Wyott Ordung.

## ● COAST TOUR

Jazz International, sponsored by Howard Lucraft and Capitol's Stan Kenton, toured the Coast last month in a concert series, accompanied by the Lester Horton Dancers, including Lelia Goldoni, Don Martin, Yvonne DeLavalade, and James Truitte.



Like everybody else, 17-year-old Dale Riffe, a Dayton, Ohio disk jockey, has a favorite record. His happens to be Jackie Gleason's Capitol cut of "Melancholy Serenade." So what did his 64-year-old grandmother do? In five weeks made him a crocheted six foot rug replica of the record.



In a gay yearend holiday mood are these popular stars of Hollywood's motion picture studios. Upper left: MGM's Ann Blyth, complete with a sprig of poinsettia. Upper right: MGM's Mr. and Mrs. Vic Damone (she's the Pier Angeli) complete with sign. Lower left: Warner Brothers' Liberace and Joanne Dru, complete with Christmas packages. Lower right: Columbia's Cleo Moore, complete with Santa Claus (and packages). Miss Blyth sings, Damone sings, Liberace plays piano, Miss Moore . . . oh, who cares?

## Music For Fingernail Biting

### NORMAN LEYDEN COMPOSES 'COLD SWEAT' MUSIC FOR 'THE \$64,000 QUESTION'

Setting an appropriate musical accompaniment to modern history's greatest orgy of mass fingernail biting is the unusual job of a relaxed and philosophic ex-Yale man named Norman Leyden.

As the musical director of television's super quiz program, "The \$64,000 Question," Leyden each week composes, arranges and conducts a series of musical "gimmicks" well calculated to keep an estimated audience of 50,000,000 in suspense.

Leyden took time out the other day while visiting the offices of Broadcast Music, Inc. to let us in on the secrets of creating high-tension music. "My function," explained the young BMI composer, "is to punctuate each bit of 'business' on the show, and to fill with sound the lulls in visual action.

"When the contestant walks on, we have 'play-on' music; when the IBM machine is sorting and punching out the questions, we play 'sorting and punching' music. Then there's 'play-off' music, music for

thinking, different fanfares for each correct answer, and, most important of all, what we call 'cold sweat' music, which we play during those thirty seconds that contestants are given before answering the big money questions."

According to Leyden, "cold sweat music" is specifically designed to heighten audience tension, but it has an unsettling effect on the contestants as well. "Not on Gloria Lockerman, though."

Leyden was referring to the 12 year old Baltimore girl who blithely spelled away \$16,000 of the sponsor's money a few weeks ago. "That kid

(Continued on next page)



Norman Leyden, Steve Carlin

## NORMAN LEYDEN COMPOSES 'COLD SWEAT' MUSIC FOR 'THE \$64,000 QUESTION'

*(Continued from preceding page)*

didn't behave according to the rules. She knew the answer immediately and just stood there whiling away her thirty seconds, snapping her fingers and beating time to the music."

Norm Leyden's only previous experience with dispensing suspense via music took place a few years ago when he was making children's records under the supervision of Steve Carlin, then in charge of kiddie recordings for RCA Victor and now executive producer of "The \$64,000 Question." Before that, Leyden did a great deal of arranging and conducting for top recording artists, and some radio and TV work of a similar nature.

Born in Pleasantville, New York, 38 years ago, he studied music at Yale University, from which he went into the army to be "discovered" by Glenn Miller. Miller recommended him for the job of conductor of the Air Force show "Winged Victory," and later took Leyden overseas as arranger for the famous Glenn Miller

band. After the war Leyden wrote arrangements for Tex Beneke and then worked for Mitch Miller at Columbia Records.

Curious about whether any mysterious or special musical devices are used to keep many millions of people simultaneously nervous, we asked Mr. Leyden to divulge some of the tricks of his trade.

"It's all very simple," he told us. "All the music on the show stems from the happy little jingle we use for the commercial. As we go along, though, it gets less happy. You'd be surprised how much of an eerie atmosphere you can get by simply changing from a major to a minor key and distorting the tune harmonically."

Some of the other suspense-creating effects used, Mr. Leyden informed us, have to do with instrumentation. It seems that muted brass and combinations like a piccolo, harp and xylophone help to create a

*(Concluded on page 30)*

## ● TONY MAKES IT 7

For the seventh successive year Tony Martin will headline the Christmas show at the Flamingo hotel in Las Vegas. This will be one of the first among several month-long night club engagements scheduled.

He will be in Vegas over the holidays, then move on to the Fontainebleau, Miami, in February. In March, Tony will go to the Chez Paree in Chicago for his seventh year. He will appear for the first time in five years at New York's Copacabana in May.



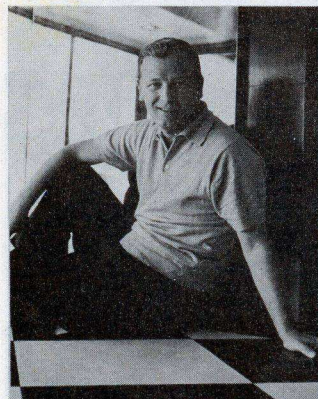
About only thing musical we can say about this photo of Ann Robinson is that Warner studio was "instrumental" getting it to us.

## ● MUSICAL 'I NIGHT'

June Allyson and Jack Lemmon have pre-recorded the eight tunes written by Johnny Mercer and Gene de Paul for Columbia Pictures' musical version of the comedy hit, "It Happened One Night." They worked with a 36-piece orchestra conducted by Morris Stoloff. Producer-director is Dick Powell.

## ● HUGO SCORES

Hugo Winterhalter will score and conduct "Around the World in 8 Days" for Michael Todd.



In a rare idle moment, Capitol's Les Baxter is seen relaxing at his home. His newest ear-catcher wax is "The Trouble with Harry."

## ALWAYS PREPARED

George Russell, Mercury Records promotion man, recently promoted himself another job, temporary type.

Russell, a well-known guitarist who carries his instrument with him on nearly all occasions, dropped in to catch a Ralph Marterie record date in Hollywood. The bandleader decided to feature a guitar on his "Maybelline" and "Toy Tiger" etchings but found himself without a man for the job. In a flash Russell was pressed into service. The guitarist was in his car.

## ● DISNEY ADDS WAX

Walt Disney has entered the recording field with a label of his own, Disneyland Records. His first package is a 45 rpm album featuring four songs from his television shows over ABC-TV and is called "Player Piano Music" from the Wonderland Music Store at the Disneyland amusement park, near Anaheim, Calif.

## ● 3 JAZZ SIGNEES

The jazz department of RCA Victor has signed three new artists: Conte Candoli, Lou Levy, and Jack Montrose. All are West Coast jazz men.

## ● 1ST PIC FOR DE VOL

As his first assignment at Paramount as a composer-conductor, Frank De Vol has been assigned to score the Dean Martin-Jerry Lewis comedy, "Partners." Both De Vol and Martin record for Capitol.

## ● TITLE SONG

Sammy Cahn and Jimmy Van Heusen have written the title song for Otto Preminger's "Man With the Golden Arm," a United Artists release starring Capitol's Frank Sinatra. Sinatra does not sing in the film.



With these gentlemen it's merely a question of Bob Hamrick and his What Four. The answer is simple as ABC, whose radio air they use.

## Introducing on Capitol

## HELEN FORREST

Helen Forrest, who has signed a term contract with Capitol Records, has an unusual talent to follow through on her hunches. She attributes her achievements to her lack of fear at taking a chance.

She was a \$200 a week vocalist with the Harry James band when she took the risk of playing a solo spot at the Orpheum theater in Los Angeles. When she accepted this booking she didn't know that in two weeks she'd be playing an engagement at New York's Roxy theater for \$3,000 a week.

Up to this time Helen had been primarily a band vocal-

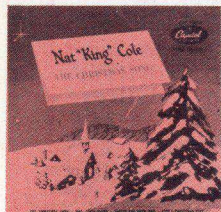
ist. She had enjoyed the rise to and peak of success with three great bands: Artie Shaw, Benny Goodman and Harry James.

At 15, Helen joined her brother's band, when they were playing a small club that featured a struggling comic by the name of Red Skelton. It was when she moved with her family, from her birthplace of Atlantic City, to Brooklyn that Helen got her first radio chance. For two years she sang commercials. Then for CBS, Mark Warnow presented Helen Forrest as Bonnie Blue on the Blue Velvet Show.

After a siege of blue tones Helen accepted a two week stint at the Madrillion, Washington, D.C. which was extended two years. From this she went from one big name band to another until she, with Harry James and his famous trumpet made history with some great tunes. Helen vocalized for James again recently when they recorded some nostalgic tunes incorporated in the Capitol album, "Harry James in Hi-Fi."



# Christmas in the Air



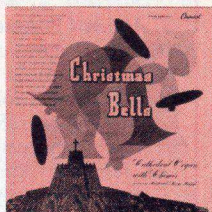
## THE CHRISTMAS SONG Nat Cole

Nat captures the yule mood with the nostalgic *Christmas Song* which he made famous, and three other popular holiday tunes. **NO. 9026**



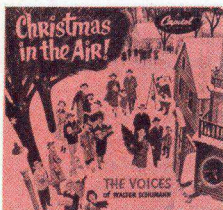
**MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU!** Top pop artists perform a rich variety of holiday songs that say Merry Christmas in the nicest possible way.

**NO. 9028**



## CHRISTMAS BELLS Richard Keys Biggs

A rich assortment of traditional carols, magnificently performed on the organ by masterful organist Richard Keys Biggs. **NO. 9013**



## CHRISTMAS IN THE AIR! Voices of Walter Schumann Album No. 9016



## CHRISTMAS CHEER! Les Paul and Mary Ford Album No. EAP 1-543

**SONGS OF CHRISTMAS**  
Jo Stafford & Gordon MacRae  
Album No. EAP 1-9021

**BOYS TOWN CHOIR**  
SINGING CHRISTMAS CAROLS  
Album No. 9006

**CHRISTMAS CAROLS**  
St. Luke's Choristers  
Album No. 9000

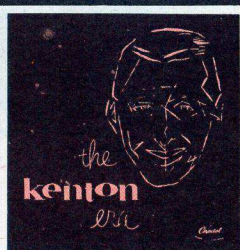
**ORGAN PLAYS AT CHRISTMAS**  
Buddy Cole  
Album No. 9002

**YINGLE BELLS** Yogi Yorgesson  
Album No. EAP 1-461

## THE KENTON ERA

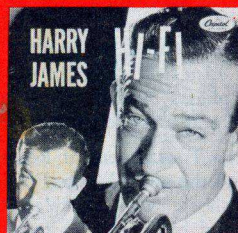
*A memorable Christmas gift!*

A documentary of music by Stan Kenton from 1940 to the present. Records of concerts, rehearsals, transcriptions, and unreleased masters, accompanied by a commentary dramatizing in pictures and anecdotes the events and artists of the Kenton Era. **NO. 569**



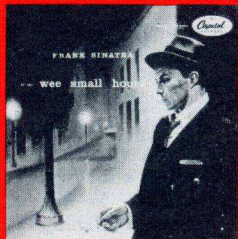
# Give the best for Christmas...

*The nation's best-selling albums*



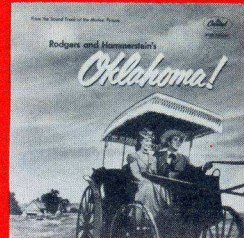
## HARRY JAMES IN HI-FI

In brilliant High Fidelity, and more exciting than ever, the Music Makers, with memorable tunes of their great 15-year history, rejoined today by popular vocalist Helen Forrest. **NO. 654**

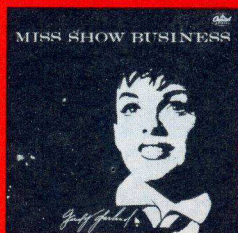


## IN THE WEE SMALL HOURS

The nation's favorite male vocalist tops even his finest former performances singing an array of poignant ballads. **NO. 581**



**OKLAHOMA!** From the motion picture sound track, in High Fidelity, the words and music of America's best-loved musical stage production, performed by the film's brilliant array of stars! **NO. 595**



## MISS SHOW BUSINESS

Mixing laughter and tears and a world of nostalgia, Judy sings the outstanding songs from her fabulous career; an array of 17 wonderful tunes. **NO. 676**



## LONESOME ECHO

The master of the lush arrangement and the sentimental mood has a thrilling new musical concept! An exotic stringed orchestra whose sound is as magical as it is new. **NO. 627**



Smoking "Slow, Smooth and Easy" from the title of her first disk for Capitol while the band "takes five" is barefooted Anita Tucker.



Red Nichols looks lamentable at Capitol session where he waxed "Bugler's Lament." On other side is a dilly called "Glory, Glory."

## ● DINAH IN PARADE

Singing star Dinah Shore has been unanimously chosen to act as the official representative of the entertainment industry and to ride a beautiful floral float especially designed for the occasion in the gigantic 1956 Tournament of Roses Parade at Pasadena on New Years Day, Sunday, Jan. 1.

The float, spotlighting the vivacious first lady of song, will depict "Music Through The Ages" with the historical chain of significant phases worked out in colorful floral arrangements.

Both the Tournament of Roses Parade and the annual Rose Bowl football classic will be telecast in color and black and white on NBC-TV.

## IT'S HIS LABEL, SO...

It's the boss' label so he'll sing on it.

So it is with Archie Bleyer, formerly one of Arthur Godfrey's "Friends," and now artists and repertoire chief of Cadence Records. The diskery's exec turns crooner for the first time on a tune titled "Nothin' to Do." Is that a good reason for becoming a vocalist?

## ● '\$64,000 JAZZ'

"The \$64,000 Question" has inspired a new recording, "\$64,000 Jazz," a primer for music-minded would-be contestants on the program.

The album developed by George Avakian, for Columbia Records, after producers of the "\$64,000 Question" had asked Mr. Avakian to aid in preparation of jazz questions for the program.

"\$64,000 Jazz" presents a dozen jazz immortals in classic performances tracing the development of this American art form. The selections in the album illustrate the panoramic knowledge needed to answer correctly the program's jazz category questions.

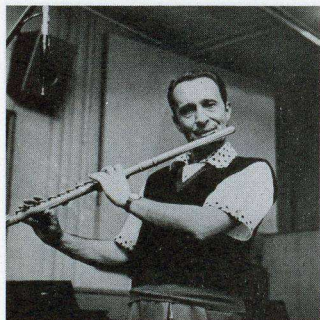
## REVERSE TWIST

New York radio station WMGM has come up with a reverse twist on the old record request gimmick.

The plan calls for listeners to send to emcee Ed Stokes a list of disks they don't want to hear, which will guide the station's future programming. Two or three negative requests on a record, of course, may not be enough to kill it but if said tune racks up numerous anti-play requests, it will be dead on the station.



Obviously earning her stripes as an actress at Warner studios is Elizabeth Montgomery, daughter of screen-TV star, Robt. Montgomery.



Julie Kinsler's "Frantic Flute" Extended Play (45 rpm) album is on release nationally now on Capitol label. Here's Julie on pipe.



**FREDDIE HART**  
Current Recording:  
*"Hiding In the Darkness"*  
*"That's What You Gave to Mee"*



**LOUVIN BROTHERS**  
Current Recording:  
*"I Don't Believe You'e Met My Baby"* — *"In the Middle of Nowhere"*



**FARON YOUNG**  
Current Recording:  
*"It's a Great Life"* — *"For the Love of a Woman Like You"*



**"TEXAS" BILL STRENGTH**  
Current Recording:  
*"When Love Comes Knockin'"* — *"Turn Around"*

## THESE ARE SOME OF YOUR FAVORITE

## COUNTRY-WESTERN RECORDING ARTISTS



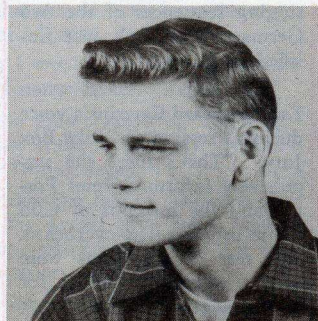
**SONNY JAMES**  
Current Recording:  
*"Pigtails and Ribbons"*  
*"Careless with My Heart"*



**TOMMY COLLINS**  
Current Recording:  
*"I'll Be Gone"* — *"I Love You More and More Each Day"*



**HANK THOMPSON**  
Current Recording:  
*"Honey, Honey Bee Ball"*  
*"Don't Take It Out On Me"*



**JERRY REED**  
Current Recording:  
*"Here I Am"* — *"If the Good Lord's Willing and the Creeks Don't Rise"*

## ● GLEASON FEATURE

Scheduled to be shot early next year is Jackie Gleason's first feature motion picture since becoming a big-time TV comic. The film is tentatively titled "Uncle Ed and Circumstance," the Frank Gilroy script seen on CBS-TV's "Studio One" a few weeks ago.

Recently Gleason turned down the lead in the Elia Kazan production of "The Arkansas Traveler" because he didn't feel the role was right for him.

## DOUBLE TROUBLE

Caterina Valente, the German girl whose records have been winding up as big hits, dubbed for Zsa Zsa Gabor in singing sequences of the two German films she's just finished in Europe.

The "secret" leaked when Zsa Zsa heard Caterina's voice during a session of "Juke Box Jury." "That's me," she impulsively informed Peter Potter, and the millions of CBS Radio listeners who overheard. The rest of the beans were spilled when Pete asked for an explanation.

The Jury promised Miss Gabor they'd never tell a soul when the pictures are released.



"Who Am I Foolin'?" queries this Detroit oriole on the topside of her newest Capitol release. She's Bunny Paul whose style's catching.

## ● FISHER FOR FORD

Eddie Fisher will stat in "I Hear America Singing," replacing Bing Crosby who was originally slated for the role, in the "Star Jubilee" production to be screened by CBS-TV Dec. 17. The 90-minute production will be telecast in color and black and white from Television City in Hollywood.

## Positive Thinking Gets Results

### THAT'S WHAT GORDON MAC RAE WILL TELL YOU

(EDITOR'S NOTE: *Entertainment Editor Dick Williams of the Los Angeles Mirror-News snagged a Gordon MacRae interview worthy of passing along. With Williams' permission we do so.*)

There really must be something to the theory that positive thinking gets results.

Gordon MacRae is startling proof of the adage.

For years Gordy had his heart set on playing the role of impulsive, dashing Billy Bigelow, hero of the Rodgers and Hammerstein stage musical, "Carousel," when it reached the screen.

He talked about it constantly. He sang the tender "Soliloquy" from the "Carousel" score as the feature number on his nightclub act. He performed the part in the special production staged at the Dallas State Fair last summer.

But when 20th Century-Fox announced the casting of the role for its \$5,000,000 movie version of "Carousel," filming this fall, it wasn't Gordon MacRae. It was Frank Sinatra.

For 999 out of 1000 persons that would have been the end of all hopes for that part. But not MacRae.

"I never stopped believing that I would play the role, even after Frank was set, and reported for work."

MacRae was so resolute that he didn't shave off the long sideburns which he grew for the role in the Dallas stage version. He wore the sideburns on a Tahoe fishing vacation.

And it was to a lakeside lodge that the fateful long-distance telephone call came, first from his agent, then from Oscar Hammerstein. They told him that Sinatra had walked out on the role and they wanted Gordon to replace him.

This isn't the first time that Frank Sinatra has played a significant role in changing the course of Gordon MacRae's career.

(Continued on next page)



Playing the role of Ruth in Columbia Pictures' musical version of "My Sister Eileen" is singing and dancing star, Betty Garrett.

## ● COLE'S BIOFILM

"The Nat 'King' Cole Story," a film biography of the best-selling Capitol artist, will be released to the nation's theaters during Christmas week by Universal-International. The Cinemascope production is narrated by movie star Jeff Chandler.

## ● LEVY TO VICTOR

To be billed as "The Gray Fox" will be Lou Levy, Coast jazz pianist, who has been inked to a new RCA Victor contract.

## POSITIVE THINKING GETS RESULTS

*(Continued from preceding page)*

He really is responsible for starting it, in the first place. And strangely that also was an instance in which Sinatra dropped out of a show and MacRae replaced him.

It happened in 1942. Frankie was riding the crest in his first hit as the new crooner sensation.

Among his chores was a singing stint on a Sunday afternoon CBS radio sustaining program called "Reflections." Frank got sick and CBS rushed MacRae, then singing with the Ray Bloch Chorus, into the breach.

Gordy did such a good replacement job that CBS signed him to a contract. It was MacRae's first boost toward the big time and led, after the war, to his first Hollywood movie contract at Warner Bros.

MacRae feels that singers all owe Frankie a debt of gratitude.

"He started the modern vogue for singers back in the 40s. About the only big one around until he came along was Bing Crosby."

## OUT OF THE MOUTHS OF BABES... TEETH!

A church congregation in Memphis, Tenn. was serenaded recently by two-year-old Patricia Ann Fields. When the choir leader said "Let's all sing," Patricia Ann's high pitched voice rang out, "Davee, Davee Crockett," while the others sang "Give

Me That Old-Time Religion."

Older sister Mary, 9, attempted to quiet the Crockett fan by putting her hand over her mouth.

Patricia Ann expressed her appreciation by biting sister Mary's palm.

## ● HITS—THEN & NOW

Ted Lewis, who has done his level best to make everybody happy during his 40 years as an entertainer, frankly doesn't "dig" today's disk business and its records that are generally believed to be "hits" if they sell 200,000 copies.

Commenting on this in *Variety*, the top hat and cane performer said, "In the old days, when there was a smaller market and there were no disk jockeys, it was nothing for us to sell 1,000,000 records in a month."

He estimated that 5 million of his disks have been sold through the years. Among the tunes that boosted the selling figure largely are "St. Louis Blues" and "My Baby Smiles At Me." These have been recorded as many as three or four times, Lewis said.



Cutie Joni. Last name's James and for MGM waxworks she's etched a nice wish, "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas." Hoping you do.



Definitely not a rhythm and blues record is Dakota Staton's newest for Capitol, "It Feels So Nice." Backside tune: "A Dangerous Age."



An Hawaiian-flavored mood comes through in Dean Martin's newest disk for Capitol, "Memories Are Made of This." Stabile ork backs.

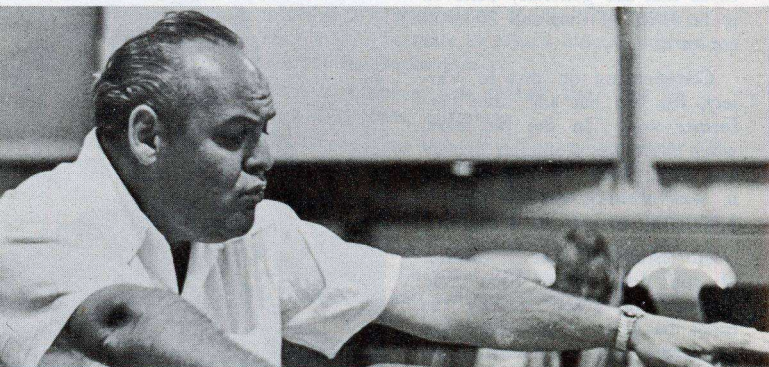
## for the record



"(Love Is) The Tender Trap," title song from his new movie, is Frank Sinatra's newest single platter in the Capitol grooves.



The Four Freshmen should be graduated for their new winning pair on Capitol, "Charmaine" backed by "In This Whole Wide World."



All puckered up as if he were ready to kiss "Suzette," his new single on Capitol, is Magnificent Maestro May, whom his friends call Billy. As you may have guessed, it was written in France. The Maytimers sing it. Meanwhile, backside, the Encores offer lyrics to "Street of Dreams."



Intriguing violins, piano rhythms, muted trombones and voices team up for Nelson Riddle's new entrancing melody from Spain, "Lisbon Antigua." Flip the pancake and you'll hear "Robin Hood," title song from the new TV program. Here is Riddle arranging the songs at home, near Hollywood.



This gentleman should look happy. He's Lou Busch and his first big orchestra release on Capitol is happy and up-tempoed "Zambezi."

#### ● SMALL FRY SIGNED

A pair of young 'uns were signed to recording contracts recently.

King Records has inked eight-year-old Joe Ward, while MGM has signed up six-year-old Barry Gordon. Both moppets were recruited from television, Ward from "Juvenile Jury," Gordon from "Star Time Kids."



A pair of queens from the famous Alberghetti family, sisters Carla (top) and Anna Marie, will appear in Yule Day video show on NBC.

#### ● TWO 'X' ADDITIONS

Judy Holiday and Prophet James J. Jones have been added to the roster of Label X artists. Miss Holiday is stage-screen star; Jones is a Detroit preacher who will etch spirituals and sermons for the label.



The instrumental quartet of the drummer above, Frankie Carlson, backs the Four Knights on their current Capitol release of "You."

#### ● LYMAN'S BIOPIC

"Street of Dreams," one of the songs made famous by crooner Tommy Lyman will be the title of a new musical, now being scripted, for film. The story will be of Lyman's life from the 1920's to now.

Lyman, who began his career in the mobster era is vocalizing for high society at Al White's Southampton Club.

#### CHANGING TIMES

The concert of the Philharmonic orchestra of London in New York recently presented an unusual picture: a top Soviet artist appearing in the United States as a soloist with a British symphony under an American conductor who was a top figure in Nazi Germany.

## NORMAN LEYDEN AND '\$64,000 QUESTION'

variety of delightfully unsettling sensations.

"And of course," said Leyden, "there's always monotony. In fact, you can always count on monotony for building tension. Ravel's 'Bolero' is the best example of that. On the show we often use the ticking of a clock or the sound of a heartbeat to give us the suspense we need."

Since no rehearsals are held with the contestants, a good deal of Norm Leyden's job depends on his own split-second decisions. Working from a master cue-sheet, he and the eleven musicians in the studio orchestra are kept constantly on their toes.



Dick Duane, 24-year-old Beverly Hills, Calif.-born singer, signs five year Ampar Records contract with the label's proxy, Sam Clark.



Carol Richards has parted company with Decca to join RCA Victor. In movies she's dubbed for Joan Caulfield, Cyd Charisse, others.

## HARE'S A TALE

Recently a Rumford, Me., deejay received a call from a listener who requested: "My brother's rabbit died so would you play an appropriate song because he feels bad."

Confused but willing to be cooperative the disk jockey dropped the pickup into the lead-in groove of Stan Freberg's Capitol recording of "The Lone Psychiatrist."



# FEAR NOT

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GOOD TIDINGS  
OF GREAT JOY  
WHICH SHALL  
BE TO ALL  
PEOPLE + LUKE 2:10



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Newly signed to rock 'n roll around the Capitol grooves are the Jodimers. Their first hard-driving, exciting sides for the label are "Let's All Rock Together" coupled with "Well Now, Dig This," with vocal by Dick Richards on both sides. The boys are, left to right: Bob Simpson, piano; Jim Buffington, drums; Charles Hess, guitar; Joe Ambrose, tenor sax; Dick Richards, vocalist-drummer, and Marshall Lytel, vocalist and bass player.